U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
28th Street SW Pipeline Spill - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: **POLREP #1**
Initial POLREP
28th Street SW Pipeline Spill
V4HO
Birmingham, AL
Latitude: 33.4584850 Longitude: -86.8779160

To: James Webster, USEPA R4 ERRPPB
Grady Springer, ADEM

From: Matthew Huyser, FOSC
Date: 3/18/2022
Reporting Period: 3/15/2022 - 3/17/2022

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	V4HO	**Contract Number:**	
D.O. Number:		**Action Memo Date:**	
Response Authority:	OPA	**Response Type:**	Emergency
Response Lead:	PRP	**Incident Category:**	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	**Operable Unit:**	
Mobilization Date:	3/15/2022	**Start Date:**	3/15/2022
Demob Date:	3/17/2022	**Completion Date:**	
CERCLIS ID:		**RCRIS ID:**	
ERNS No.:		**State Notification:**	3/15/2022
FPN#:	UCGPE22406	**Reimbursable Account #:**	

1.1.1 Incident Category
Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description

The discharge location is surrounded by industrial facilities with a residential neighborhood immediately north and downstream. The facilities consist of fuel terminals along the Kinder Morgan and Colonial Pipeline route and a trans-mix reclamation plant. The Environmental Proteccion Agency's Environmental Justice 2.0 Screening Tool indicates multiple overburdened and low-income communities close to the incident.

1.1.2.1 Location
The intersection of 28th St SW and Balsam Ave SW in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Oil is seeping from the ground adjacent to the road near multiple fuel storage and processing facilities. The area is perpetually wet with shallow groundwater and frequent flooding conditions. The oil was found to be discharging into an unnamed tributary of Valley Creek. Valley Creek is a tributary of Bankhead Lake (Black Warrior River) in Central Alabama and travels through multiple residential communities.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

At approximately 12:46 CDT, the reporting party discovered fuel bubbling out of the ground and discharging into Valley Creek. Initially, the exact source of the fuel was unknown due to multiple potential sources nearby. The potential volume released is also unknown. Oil Spill Removal Organizations (OSROs) responded and have deployed containment booms in Valley Creek and have mobilized vacuum trucks to collect the oil/water mixture. The potentially responsible parties (PRP) are investigating to determine who owns the pipeline. Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) responded and requested EPA assistance. Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) and Region's 4 Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) Contractors responded to evaluate the nature and extent of contamination and ensure proper response activities from the responsible party.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

The OSC arrived at approximately 1830hrs CDT and observed sorbent boom around a seep of dark-colored oil located at the southeast corner of 28th St SW and Balsam Ave ("the seep"). Continuous rain throughout the day and night caused flooding on Balsam Ave, traveling north into the unnamed tributary. Sorbent boom had been placed in the stream, but turbulent floodwater made containment difficult. A majority of the visible sheen is still contained around the seep.

Kinder Morgan mobilized excavation equipment and an oil response contractor to arrive by 2000 hours and 2200 hours, respectively. Kinder Morgan excavated several trenches adjacent to their transmission lines which are 10" and 12" in diameter, 5 feet deep, and travel in a North-Eastern direction within 60 feet of the seep. The trenches accumulated water due to shallow water table conditions but no sheen or fuel was found, and the transmission lines were not identified as a source.

At approximately 2100hrs, fuel was found on the driveway of the Chevron terminal and accumulating at the intersection. This fuel did not appear to be the same source as the seep; Chevron responded and reported the incident separately as NRC # 1331148. A description of this response is provided in Section 2.2.2 of this POLREP.

The EPA's START contractor arrived at 2000 hours CDT and conducted assessments downstream, including air and water quality monitoring. A benzene concentration of 9 ppm was measured at 0.25 miles downstream in Wiggins Park, a public park, but no sheen or fuel was observed on the water. OSC Huyser notified Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). The local Fire Department was mobilized to close the park until further air monitoring measurements were taken on 3/16/2022 to clear the area. Work on 3/16/2022 will consist of source identification of the seep with Sunoco, Kinder Morgan, Colonial, Chevron, and any other potential party.

On the morning of 3/16/2022, the rate of oil seeping from the bank at the southwest corner of the intersection was observed to have slowed and was contained by the sorbent boom. Hand-excavation was conducted in the bank to remove impacted soil, and oil seepage continued at a slow but visible pace.

EPA and START collected samples from the spill area and potential sources on 3/16/2022 and 3/17/2022. These samples were sent to the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Laboratory (MSL) for fingerprinting analysis. Samples were also sent to an analytical laboratory for sulfur content analysis. Sample locations included:

- Three samples from the puddle in the southeast corner of the intersection near the seep, collected at various times along with a fourth sample serving as a duplicate
- One sample taken from sheen and oil on water over a storm drain at the south side of the intersection on 28th St
- One sample from oil in a pothole on 28th St near the intersection
- One sample from the sump at Chevron’s terminal which overflowed on the night of 3/15/2022 and was reported to the NRC as a separate spill incident
- Two samples one from each of two monitoring wells at Chevron’s terminal
- One product sample of trans-mix from Sunoco which is transferred in a buried pipeline
- Two product samples of diesel from separate tanks at Citgo, one of which may partially represent a receipt taken from a Colonial pipeline prior to 3/15/2022

EPA and START temporarily demobilized on 3/17/2022.

Update #2 - On the morning of 3/16/2022, the rate of oil seeping from the bank at the corner of the intersection has seemingly slowed and is being contained by sorbent boom. Hand-excavation was conducted in the bank to remove impacted soil, and oil seepage continued at a slow but visible pace. The EPA, ADEM, and the City of Birmingham met with representatives from the four facilities (Sunoco, Chevron, Citgo and Kinder Morgan), separately and then as a group. The facilities agreed to work as a co-op to maintain boom around the seep area and conduct daily observations and reporting. Over the next week, each facility will be receiving or moving product through its pipeline in the area resulting in a pressure change that, if leaking, could influence the flow rate or consistency of the seep. An ICS 202 (Objectives) and 205A (Communications List) were prepared and will be agreed upon by all parties on 3/17/2022. EPA and START are collecting samples for fingerprint analysis and anticipate demobilizing on 3/17/2022.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date
- Initial oily water removal by vacuum truck (Sunoco)
- Installation of containment measures
- Additional oily water removal by vacuum truck (Chevron)
- Installation and maintenance of sorbent materials
- Collection of spill and potential source samples for fingerprinting analysis and sulfur content

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

There are several facilities and pipelines in the area, some with historical groundwater contamination. Facilities participating and coordinating with the response include Sunoco, Chevron, Citgo, and Kinder Morgan (aka Products (SE)). Notice of Federal Interest Letters were issued to all four facilities on 3/17/2022.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics
Waste collected and disposed of by the responsible parties is not being reported back to EPA or ADEM. For example, EPA and ADEM observed one drum of oiled sorbents, and additional oily water was vacuumed by Sunoco and contractors for Chevron. However, volumes of the oily water that was removed were not distributed

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

See sections 2.2.1.1 and 2.2.1.2 below

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

EPA, ADEM and the City of Birmingham met with representatives from the four facilities (Sunoco, Chevron, Citgo and Kinder Morgan [aka Products (SE)]). The facilities agreed to work as a co-op to maintain boom around the seep area and conduct daily observations and reporting. Over the next week, each facility will be receiving or moving product through its pipeline in the area resulting in a pressure change that, if leaking, could influence the flow rate or consistency of the seep. As a result, an ICS 202 (Objectives), ICS 205A (Communications List), and ICS 230 (Schedule) were prepared and agreed upon by all parties on 3/17/2022.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

- Facilities will coordinate maintenance of containment around oil seep or areas where oil is observed until product is gone (ONGOING)
- EPA and facilities will independently conduct investigation activities to determine source of oil (ONGOING)
- Facilities will monitor area of concern during and immediate after pipeline receipts by terminals
- Facilities will report monitoring observations and will immediately notify EPA, ADEM, City of Birmingham and Jefferson County if containment is breached during a rain event.

2.2.2 Issues

There are several facilities and pipelines in the area, some with historical groundwater contamination. For example, Sunoco was reported to have a leaking pipeline in 2016 which resulted in remediation and replacement of two old lines with a single line that travels between the Sunoco trans mix reclamation plant at 2511 28th St SW to a Sunoco Terminal at 2700 Ishkooda-Wenonah Rd SW; this project was completed in 2017, and the groundwater wells associated with the project have been closed.

During the excavation of the Sunoco line in 2016-2017, an older transmission line to the Citgo terminal was discovered that was reportedly cleaned and closed after discovery. Citgo also has had groundwater contamination on its facility and has several monitoring wells which are being sampled with passive sorbent samplers.

Chevron was reported by ADEM to have a release in 2016, and there are groundwater wells at the facility that were sampled during this event. Chevron also had a release on 3/15/2022 at the same time as the response to the seep, but this did not appear to be the same source as the seep. At approximately 2100hrs, fuel was found on the driveway of the Chevron terminal and accumulating at the intersection. The OSC used a MultiRAE Pro photoionization detector (PID) for air monitoring and measured volatile organic compound (VOC) readings of over 50 parts per million (ppm) in the breathing zone near the accumulating fuel; no lower explosive level (LEL) readings above 0% were measured. Chevron personnel responded and mobilized a response contractor. The OSC contacted Birmingham Police and Jefferson County EMA to provide traffic barriers to block the accumulating fuel, but neither could be mobilized. Chevron provided traffic cones to prevent vehicles from approaching the puddle with accumulating fuel. This discharge resulted from a failed sump pump designed to move stormwater to an oil-water separator; it was reported separately as NRC # 1331148. The OSC remained on-scene to ensure that response measures were adequate.

2.3 Logistics Section

There is no information to report in this section

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

Federal Project Number UCGPE22406 was opened on 3/15/2022 in with an initial amount of $10,000 for federal and contractor activities.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
TAT/START	$10,000.00	$4,000.00	$6,000.00	60.00%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	$10,000.00	$4,000.00	$6,000.00	60.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

There is no information to report in this section

2.5.2 Liaison Officer
There is no information to report in this section

2.5.3 Information Officer
There is no information to report in this section

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command
There is no information to report in this section

3.2 Cooperating Agencies
EPA
ADEM
City of Birmingham
Jefferson County EMA
Chevron
Sunoco
Citgo
Kinder Morgan, aka Products (SE)

4. Personnel On Site
EPA and START have temporarily demobilized.

Personnel at the terminals have returned to their normal duty stations and are coordinating containment maintenance

Chevron has retained a response contractor which was still on-site on 3/17/2022

5. Definition of Terms
There is no information to report in this section

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report
Documents and records will be posted on response.epa.gov/28thstswpipelinespill

6.2 Reporting Schedule
Additional POLREPs will be filed as site conditions change

7. Situational Reference Materials
There is no information to report in this section